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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria/East Germany

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SUBJECT Planned Revision of European Maps

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1. At a meeting of representatives of the USSR and the People's Democracies, held in Sofia during June and July 1952, the Soviets ordered a revision of existing European maps. The project is to be completed in 1954; it was specified that West German maps were to be included in the revision. Under the new system, the prime meridian will run through Moscow. Leningrad will be used as mean sea level to calculate altitudes on contour maps; German maps now use Amsterdam as Normal O.
2. The East German delegation to the meeting was composed of a commission from the Main Surveying Department of the DDR Ministry of the Interior. A certain Pichelmeyer, a land surveyor by profession and an employee of the Ministry of the Interior, attended the meeting as technical adviser to the commission. Pichelmeyer is a member of the SED (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands; Socialist Unity Party of Germany), but is allegedly opposed to the SED party line.

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